

1. In the Claims. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A placement indicator for use with a climbing cam having opposed cam members, comprising:

visible placement indicia placed on each of said opposed cam members, wherein said visible placement indicia ~~correlates to~~ indicates the quality of cam placement in a rock and includes indicia for indicating when cam placement is not safe.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The placement indicator according to claim 1 wherein each cam defines a rock-contacting surface and a side surface, and wherein the visible indicia are placed on the side surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The placement indicator according to claim 3 wherein the visible indicia further comprises a multiple color-coded marking in which the color of the indicia correlates to the quality of cam placement in the rock.

5. (Original) The placement indicator according to claim 3 wherein the visible indicia further comprises a graduated scale marking in which the scale graduations of the indicia correlate to the quality of cam placement in the rock.

6. (Original) The placement indicator according to claim 3 wherein the visible indicia further comprises a color-coded and graduated scale marking in which the markings correlate to the quality of cam placement in the rock.

7. (Original) The placement indicator according to claim 4 wherein the color-coded markings further comprise a red zone, and yellow zone and a green zone.

8. (Original) The placement indicator according to claim 7 wherein each colored zone correlates to a predetermined portion of the rock-contacting surface.

9. (Currently Amended) In a climbing cam having at least one pair of opposing arcuate cam members configured for contacting rock surfaces in a crack in a rock, the improvement comprising:

indicia on each of said cam members capable of indicating unsafe cam placement quality.

10. (Original) The climbing cam according to claim 9 wherein the opposing arcuate cam members are pivotally movable between a fully open position in which the cam members contact rock surfaces and a fully closed position in which the cam members contact rock surfaces, and wherein the indicia on each of said cam members defines a graduated placement quality scale extending from the fully open position to the fully closed position.

11. (Currently Amended) The climbing cam according to claim 9 wherein the indicia further comprises multiple color-coded indicia in which the color of the indicia correlates to the quality of cam placement in the crack.

12. (Currently Amended) The climbing cam according to claim 11 wherein the multiple color-coded markings further comprise a red zone, and yellow zone and a green zone.

13. (Original) The climbing cam according to claim 12 wherein each colored zone correlates to a predetermined portion of a rock-contacting surface of the cam members.

14. (Currently Amended) A visual placement indicator for a climbing cam of the type having opposed cams, comprising:

indicia means on said cams for providing a visual assessment of the quality of cam placement, said indicia means including visual indicators indicating unsafe cam placement.

15. (Currently Amended) The visual placement indicator according to claim 14 wherein the indicia means further comprises multi-color coding means for providing a visual indication of the quality of cam placement.

16. (Original) The visual placement indicator according to claim 14 wherein the indicia means further comprises a graduated scale for providing a visual indication of the quality of cam placement.

17. (Original) The visual placement indicator according to claim 14 wherein the indicia means further comprises a color-coded graduated scale for providing a visual indication of the quality of cam placement.

18. (Original) The visual placement indicator according to claim 15 in which the color coding means comprises plural color coded zones including a red zone, a yellow zone and a green zone.
19. (Original) The visual placement indicator according to claim 18 in which each cam defines a rock-contacting surface, and wherein each colored zone correlates to a predetermined portion of the rock-contacting surface.
20. (Original) The visual placement indicator according to claim 19 wherein each cam further defines a cam side surface and wherein the colored zones are marked on the cam side surface.